

# On Vietnam:

Events of the past few months have further undermined the administration's stated rationale for involvement in Vietnam—that an American armed force is there to defend the Vietnamese. The continuing demonstrations in Hue, Da Nang and Saigon, with their anti-Ky and anti-American slogans, have made it clearer than ever that the Saigon regime has virtually no popular support. Military activities have been steadily escalated, and American military power has been forced to assume the brunt of the fighting from the South Vietnamese army. An estimated 100,000 soldiers deserted this army in 1965 alone (*N. Y. Times* 2/24/66).

The successive regimes in Saigon which our government has been supporting were never popularly elected, and since shortly after the inception of the civil war have not governed more than a portion of South Vietnam. Nonetheless, the administration has attempted justification for American military intervention by claiming that these regimes have had popular support and could therefore be considered legitimate governments for all of South Vietnam.

The dramatic exposure of these false premises and of the fragile basis for our policies has led many prominent Amer-

icans, including some former supporters of the war, to declare that our forces must be prepared to leave Vietnam if a new government there asks us to do so.

But our administration's previous response to reverses in Vietnam has been escalation, bringing with it increasing death and destruction, and we are particularly alarmed at the extension of B-52 bombings to the North and new air raids in the Hanoi-Haiphong area. To escalate militarily while our position disintegrates politically is immoral, futile and perilous.

Furthermore, while increasing numbers of political leaders and commentators question the entire policy of the United States in Vietnam, the American force, approximately a quarter of a million men, is conducting "search-and-kill" operations and continues massive daily bombings in the course of which thousands of Vietnamese and Americans are being killed and wounded.

*The interests of our country and the strength of our belief in the right of self-determination demand that ways be immediately found to disengage ourselves from this intolerable situation. We are convinced that such a course is in accord with the mood of increasing numbers of Americans.*

## We call upon our government:

To cease all bombing, North and South, and all other offensive military operations immediately;

To indicate that it will negotiate with the National Liberation Front and all other interested parties for a peaceful settlement;

To encourage in every way, and in no way to inter-

fere with, the free exercise of popular sovereignty in Vietnam;

To evaluate seriously whether self-determination for the Vietnamese as well as our own national interests would not be best served by termination of our military presence in Vietnam.

*This statement, together with the names of more than 6,500 signers, appeared as a three-page advertisement in the N.Y. Times of June 5th, 1966. Its publication, as well as this advertisement, was paid for by the signers — 3,938 faculty members at 180 colleges and universities in 39 states and over 2,600 members of the professional community: artists, writers, clergymen, teachers, physicians, psychologists, social workers, scientists and others. A copy of the original advertisement, including the list of signers, is available upon request. Contributions for further dissemination of the views expressed in the statement are needed and welcomed.*

This statement is being reprinted in other major

Requests for information and contributions should be addressed to:

**Ad Hoc Universities Committee for  
the Statement on Vietnam** P.O. Box 435, Rye, N.Y.

Professor Harry Lustig, Chmn. Professor Martin Davis, Treas.

OR

**Committee of the Professions**

P.O. Box 397, Cathedral Post Office, N.Y., N.Y. 10025

Oscar Sachs, M.D., Chmn. Ruth Lassoff, Treas. Rosalind Wells, Coordinator

☐ Please send me a copy of the original advertisement. ☐ I enclose a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_